

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4444

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GY VE PBOR

SUBJ: GOV CONCERNED REGARDING AMERICAN RELIGIOUS GROUP AND
CUBANS SETTLING IN DISPUTED AREA OF GUYANA

REF: GEORGETOWN 0977, GEORGETOWN 1081

1. ON JUNE 28 EMBASSY'S POLITICAL COUNSELOR WAS VISITED BY DR.
LUIS MARTINEZ, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF BOUNDARIES
OF THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS. DR. MARTINEZ LEFT FOLLOWING
AIDE MEMOIRE IN SPANISH OF WHICH FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRAS-
LATION:

BEGIN QUOTE. THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA HAS INFORMATION REGARDING
TWO DEVELOPMENTS THAT ARE OCCURING IN THE AREA LOCATED TO THE
WEST OF THE DSEQUIBO RIVER;

(1) A GROUP OF PERSONS OF NORTH AMERICAN NATIONALITY OF
VARIOUS RACIAL ORIGINS (CHINESE, KOREANS, VIET-NAMESE, PUERTO
RICANS, CUBANS, AND BLACKS) HAVE BANNED TOGETHER UNDER THE NAME
"PEOPLE'S DECIPLE'S" (SIC).

(2) THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA SEEMS DISPOSED TO ASSIST THESE
MIGRANTS TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ZONE.

(3) DR. KENNETH KING, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMY
OF GUYANA, SEEMS TO HAVE OBTAINED DURING HIS VISIT TO CUBA LAST
MARCH A PROMISE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND
THE SENDING OF SOME 700 CUBANS. END QUOTE

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2. INASMUCH AS THE GOV'S AIDE MEMOIRE INVOLVES THE AREA OF GUYANA

WHICH IS CLAIMED BY VENEZUELA, THE EMBASSY WILL TAKE NO ACTION ON THIS MATTER PENDING RECEIPT OF GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

3. IT IS OF INTEREST THAT THE GOV'S ACTION CALLING THESE ALLEGATIONS TO THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION CAME IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF GUYANAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMPHAL'S VISIT TO CARACAS. RAMPHAL'S VISIT RECEIVED VERY LITTLE PRESS ATTENTION HERE, BEING COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWED BY THE UN CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. WHEN I SPOKE TO RAMPHAL WITH REGARD TO THESE REPORTED MISSIONARY COLONIES NEAR THE VENEZUELAN BORDER HE SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED AND SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF IT.

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